

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract on page 13 as follows:

ABSTRACT

A method of and an apparatus for writing data on and reading data from a recording medium such as an optical disc, a magnetic disc and, particularly, a tape are described. When a block (45*) of the medium is defective, the data to be written in said block is stored in an auxiliary memory (20). Subsequently, all the data from the auxiliary memory is copied to a predetermined spare area (3) of the medium (2). Conversely, when the medium is read, data is first copied from the spare area (3) of the medium (2) to the auxiliary memory (20). If a block (45*) then appears to be defective, the correct information is read from the auxiliary memory (20).

—————Thus, it is possible to write and read a real-time audio and/or video signal in a reliable manner without the possible presence of any defective blocks affecting the data transfer rate.

Figure 2